PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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Keeping Families Strong **August, 2006**

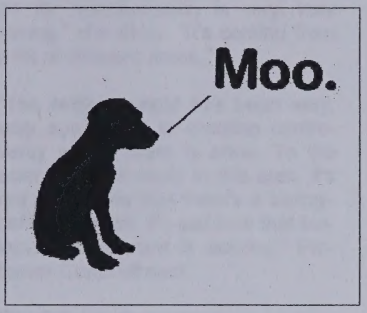
August PFLAG Meeting to Feature Summer Potluck, Discussion of the Dog That Says "Moo"

Everyone is welcome at the PFLAG summer potluck meeting on Tuesday, August 15th at The Dwelling Place. Please bring a dish to share and Note the earlier starting time—6:30 p.m.

Joining us will be a representative from the Born Different Campaign, now finishing its six-week run. This lighthearted attempt to foster discussion in the Colorado Springs community around the question of whether GLBTIQ people have a choice in their sexual orientation was kicked off by the installation of lamppost banners in June in downtown Colorado Springs. The banners show a dog that says "Moo". The posters are backed up by a website, www.borndifferent.org., where Norman is introduced as a dog that moos because he was born that way.

Your newsletter editor saw a bus painted entirely white, with a mooing Norman painted on it, and mistakenly thought that the campaign organizers were just arriving in town from Denver. After waiving an enthusiastic "Hello" to the bus she realized to her amazement that it was a local city bus sporting the campaign poster. Oops. Amazing!

Funded by the Gill Foundation and created by a Denver advertising firm, the campaign has sparked discussion, newspaper articles, letters to the editor of *the Gazette* and, recently, an opposing campaign by Focus on the Family (FOTF), featuring Sherman, the dog that says "Woof" because, say his creators, "that's what dogs do". The FOTF campaign touts reparative therapy



and promotes the thesis that being homosexual is a matter of an individual's choice.

In a Gazette article, reporter Perry Swanson quoted "Moo" campaign organizer as saying that Norman illustrates their argument that some people are born gay and can't control their sexual orientation.

"Except for the cuddly approach, that's the position of most experts in

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AUGUST PFLAG POTLUCK DINNER AND CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday August 15, 2006 6:30 P.M.

Guest; A representative of the "Born Different" Campaign

The Dwelling Place 508 North Tejon Street 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share.

PFLAG will provide plates, eating utensils and drinks.

Everyone is welcome.

Lavender Film Festival Features *Out Loud*, Comedies

The 7th Annual Lavender Film Festival, September 15-17, produced by Alma Cremonesi and her capable volunteers, will be exceptionally good this year—get your tickets early!

Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, *Out Loud*, will perform at the opening night event at the Fine Arts Center on Friday, followed by the screening of Why We Sing, a film about GALA Choruses worldwide.

On Saturday and Sunday seven different dramatic comedies will be presented, including Loving Annabelle, about a teacher-student relationship, Puccini for Beginners, a New York comedy, and Queens, a farce dealing with marriage in Spain and featuring five prominent Spanish actresses.

"We're presenting comedies because they are much more available this year" said Alma. Tickets can be purchased at Spice of Life,

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This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

PFLAG Mission Statement:

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) persons, their families and friends through:

√ **support**, to cope with an adverse society,
√ **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and
√ **advocacy**, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

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PFLAG IS FOR EVERYONE

If you've never been to one of our meetings, we feel you will find it rewarding and may find it leads to a new sense of family.

Membership is not required.
All are welcome.

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To join the chapter and receive the newsletter regularly, complete and mail the membership form on page four. To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, please call Karen Flitton at 634-4433.

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PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

Film Festival

(Continued from page 1)

727 Manitou Ave., Bookman, 3163 W. Colorado Ave., Toons, 802 N. Nevada and The Underground on Nevada at Kiowa Street Tickets will also be available at the Fine Arts Center after Labor Day. To read more about the film festival, go to the website: www.pplff.org.

See you there!

Born Different

(Continued from page 1)

sexual development", said R. Elizabeth Cornwell, a psychology professor and researcher at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

"The evidence for the biological basis for homosexuality is very, very strong," she said. "It's coming from a lot of different areas."

"The religious right has been very, very successful in creating controversy where there is none. To the scientists who study in this area, it's not a question that there's a biological component, it's just how that biological component is working," Professor Cornwell said.

City Officials Concerned.

The Downtown Partnership, which manages use of posters on city light poles, sold space for the campaign banners. Mayor Lionel Rivera and City Councilman Bernie Herpin raised questions about what Herpin described as a "political" message. "Being city lampposts it gives some credibility that the city supports the campaign, which I know the city does not" , Herpin said. Herpin said that if he learns that the Partnership guidelines (for banner space rental) allow such advertisements he will seek changes to the rules. Failing that, he would support revoking the Partnership's permit.

Gill Foundation spokesman Bobby Rauzon said: "This actually doesn't have anything to do with anything political, it's a simple effort to try and foster an honest dialogue, and I think that here in El Paso County that dialogue has been lacking."

Maybe it's worked", he continued. "City Councilors are talking about it. The Mayor is talking about it. We hope they continue talking about the puppy that moos."

Are You Really "Plugged In"?

Do you have an e-mail account? Of course you do! Well, are you making good use of it? If you're not subscribed to the following FREE e-mail lists, you're not really "plugged in" to what's happening on the GLBT battle front (and you're missing out on some truly fantastic GLBT human interest stories). Here are two GREAT e-mail lists you should subscribe to:

...365gay.com : What is it? Simply the best daily news source for GLBT-related headlines. And it's FREE! You'll get an email message in your inbox every day listing the top GLBT-related news stories from across the U.S. and beyond. It's a quick read, and you'll be amazed at everything happening day in and day out. To subscribe, visit www.365gay.com — on the lower left side of the homepage, click on "Daily Newsletter" to sign up.

...HRC's Online Action Center : What is it? An EASY way to become an "email activist" who communicates with your elected officials on important GLBT-related issues and legislation. Sign up for this FREE news and alert email service, and HRC (Human Rights Campaign) will send you periodic messages alerting you when your email "voice" is needed. You simply click on the link they provide, and a pre-written message appears that you click once again to approve (you can even add your own message) and the message is delivered to your representatives! How much easier can activism get?!? Visit www.hrc.org, click on the "Take Action" link, then click on the Sign Up With Human Rights Campaign". Simple!

- Thanks to the Omaha PFLAG newsletter for this article.

Citizens Project Welcomes New Director

Citizens Project introduced its new Executive Director, Christina Student, to the community at an open house at the Margarita Restaurant on July 20th.

Christina has worked with Partners in Housing for the last five years, first as an Americorps VISTA volunteer and later as Development Director. She holds a BS in Radio/Television/Film from Northwestern University and is currently pursuing her Masters in Public Administration at UCCS.

Erin Bennett joined the CP staff in June as its new Colorado College Public Interest Fellow. She graduated in May, 2006 from Colorado College with a BA in biology and women's studies and brings to her position a wealth of activism and organizing experience. Erin has served as co-chair for many local student organizations and events, and traveled to Kenya in 2005 through Boston University's School for Field Studies.

Also introduced at the event was Sara Thomas, CP's returning summer intern. She first came to know Citizens Project as a student activist in creating a Gay-Straight Alliance at Palmer High School in 2002. Since then, Sara has served as a volunteer and intern for Citizens Project, researching policy, organizing events, and writing for its publication, *Freedom Watch.*

Sara will return to Grinnell College this fall. She plans to spend the fall semester participating the Grinnell in Washington D.C. internship program, and will complete Grinnell's Peace Studies program in Ireland in the spring of 2007.

N.B. Sara and her father, Attorney Jon Thomas, spoke twice at our PFLAG meetings during the (ultimately successful) campaign to obtain District 11 School Board approval for a GSA at Palmer.

Pueblo Pride Festival—August 12

Everyone is invited to celebrate Pueblo Pride 2006 on Saturday, August 12th at the HARP River Walk and Gold Dust Saloon, 217 South Union in Pueblo.

A day of activities includes film screenings and other cultural, political and educational events. Call (719) 250-8667 for more information.

PFLAG Coalition Meeting Moved to Denver

PFLAG Executive Director Jody Huckaby will be visiting Denver this fall. Consequently, the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters has moved its fall meeting from Colorado Springs to Denver. More details on this in next month's newsletter.

Daily Effects of Straight Privilege

(More notes from students at Earlham College)

On a daily basis as a straight person:

- When I talk about my heterosexuality (such as in a joke or talking about my relationships) I will not be accused of pushing my sexual orientation onto others.
- I do not have to fear that if my family or friends find out about my sexual orientation, there will be economic, emotional and physical or psychological consequences.
- I am never asked to speak for everyone who is heterosexual.

...to be continued

Citizens Project has Moved

The office is now located at 25 North Spruce Street, Suite 307

Bigger Staff, Bigger Office. Kudos!

PrideFest a Success

At our PrideFest on July 16th PFLAG marched and ran an information booth all day in Acacia Park. Thanks to Elaine, Marty, Marilyn, Jerry Albrent, Paul, Sally, and Tom Shepard, Charlotte and Tom Saponas and anyone I missed! A delightful addition to Pride this year was Jerry's Out Loud Chorus .

IMAGIO DEI—"In the Image of God." Gen 1:27

Message from Christopher Hubble—cahubble05@yahoo.com cahubble05

Imagio Dei is a Denver ministry providing support, pastoral care, and advocacy for the LGBT Catholic Community, its family and friends.

You are cordially invited to attend:

A CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF TRANSFIGURATION— "GETTING TO THE MOUNTAINTOP."

August 5, 2006, 5 PM
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
915 East 9th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80218

We celebrate our identity as gay Catholic Christians. To RSVP or for more information about Imagio Dei events call 303-394-3034. Refreshments to follow, so please RSVP To ensure that I bring enough!

Colorado Man REACH

ManReach is a series of statwide gatherings of rural gay and bisexual men building heart centered connections and community. The gatherings include programs, indoor lodging and 3 meals a day (cooked by fabulous gay men).

August 25-28 at Camp Kiwanis on the Grand Mesa
October 27-30 at Cal-Wood near Boulder. See www.manreach.org

Coloradans for Fairness (CFE)—Update

We're making strong progress in the campaign to pass Referendum I, which will provide basic legal rights and responsibilities for thousands of Colorado couples who are currently denied any recognition in the law.

Collecting Signatures (and support) by the Thousands.

The domestic Partnership Bill (Referendum I) is already on the ballot. But because an extreme anti-gay group (led by Kevin Lundberg and Will Perkins) is collecting signatures to pass an initiative banning legal recognition of any relationship "similar to that of marriage," we had to respond to make sure your vote for Referendum I counts. We started collecting signatures for an initiative that says, basically, whatever "similar to marriage" means, Referendum I isn't similar to marriage.

Thanks to our field staff and hundreds of volunteers, the signatures have been pouring in. We have 75,000 so far, and that number is rising by the thousands every day. With the deadline to file signatures only two weeks away, it's time to really intensify our efforts and make a final sprint to the finish line. There are two reasons why this is critically important.

First, we must file thousands of signatures beyond the 68,000 legal requirement, to ensure we have the necessary number of valid signatures. And, by filing such a large number of signatures from around the state we'll show the depth of Coloradans' grassroots commitment to basic legal rights.

Anti-Gay Groups Admit Struggles to Gather Signatures.

As our petition drive rolls up big numbers, our opponents may not be judging from our opponents' own words, they are not sitting quite so comfortably. In the *Rocky Mountain News*, state Rep. Kevin Lundberg, a chief proponent of efforts to ban Referendum I, he had only a few thousand signatures. John Paul, of Coloradans for Marriage, said he didn't know how many signatures he had for a petition to ban gay marriage in the state constitution. And that was in the same news story that focused on our strong progress.

We're not getting comfortable and, frankly, there's a decent chance that both these camps are spinning the low numbers to rally their base. But, let's face it, it was a satisfying contrast.

If you'd like to endorse Ref. I, let us know. Well fax or email you a resolution of endorsement. If you want a window sign, let us know that too. Well get one to you. And if you need more information, call us at Coloradans for Fairness 303-860-7325.

BULLETIN BOARD

Reprinted from Omaha PFLAG newsletter) **August 5—Imagio Dei Service**—Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Denver. See article p. 3.

August 12—Pueblo Pride Festival– See article, p. 3.

Aug 19—Sip & Sup at Wines of Colorado on Hwy 24 in Cascade, 6 p.m. All members of the LGBT community and those who are friendly to us are welcome. Call Karl or Kevin, 579-0170

Aug 25-28—Colorado ManREACH Event, Camp Kiwanis on the Grand Mesa (see article, p. 3)

Sept 15-17—Lavender Film Festival—Fine Arts Center. See article p.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006.

Name(s) of Member(s): _____ ____New member ____Renewing member

_____

Address: _____ ____ Regular Membership $ 30
____ Supporting Member—Silver 40
____ Supporting Member—Gold 60
____ Supporting Member—Platinum 90

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Amount Enclosed $_____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

This year our chapter must contribute $15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

E-mail_____

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. Box 10076, Colorado Springs, CO 80932. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization.